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Ex Parte Notice

June 27, 2018

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, June 26, 2018, Thomas Halverson, President and Chief Executive Officer and Brian Cavey, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs met with Chairman Ajit Pai and Dr. Jay Schwarz, Wireline Advisor.

They provided Chairman Pai background information on CoBank and its role in lending to rural communication companies. CoBank and its Farm Credit System and commercial banking partners have \$4.2 billion in loan commitments to the telecommunications industry. CoBank serves a broad range of the industry sector, including wireless, cable and data infrastructure. In addition, CoBank finances rural electric cooperatives that are deploying rural broadband.

They thanked Chairman Pai for his ongoing support of Universal Service Fund (USF) to serve rural communities and of their hope that further reform of the USF could be accomplished. To help highlight the economic benefits of broadband to rural communities, they described a telemedicine pilot program in southwest Georgia focused on rural, low-income patients with Type II diabetes that CoBank recently sponsored. The initial results are exceeding expectations because the vast majority of the participating patients are lowering their blood sugar levels. At the conclusion of the pilot, CoBank will highlight the cost savings of the participating hospital and the improved health of the participating patients. The goal of this pilot program is to highlight the efficiency of universal broadband in rural areas to drive down healthcare costs. Often times the cost of deploying rural broadband is not discussed in term of how much cost efficiency can be gained in delivering a host of essential services such as healthcare.

No documents were distributed in the meeting but Mr. Halverson invited the Chairman to consider addressing the 2019 CoBank Communications Executive Forum.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sarah B. Tyree
Sarah B. Tyree
Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs

Cc: Dr. Jay Schwartz